

STAT

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Tape 20

Side A, 3 5/8 - 3 3/4

4 DEC 1978

STAT

NOTE FOR:

FROM: DCI

I'd like to look at the letter I ^{sent} ~~said~~ to the President in September
on improved accuracy of Soviet ICBMs.

DONE

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defense. And whom are we defending against? We're doing it 'cause they're doing it. They're doing it 'cause we're doing it. And the whole thing just escalates upward like a Christmas tree. It's been going on since Xerxes and Genghis Khan and all the rest, and I think it's high time we got something else."

Aha! The way to feed, shelter, and educate all those people is to get the Pentagon to *tithe*. Look into the hardset face of Theodore Martin Hesburgh, and this does not seem to be an absurdity. You can hear the priest talking. You can hear the venerable university president — the same one who persuaded more than half of the solicited Notre Dame alumni to cough up an annual \$2.5 to \$3 million in contributions every year, even as they scrambled in middle-class jobs and tried to put their kids through parochial school. This is the man who outlined an entire civil rights program while Lyndon Johnson lay exhausted on his Oval Office couch who got the President to accept every point without a quibble. He may well spend most of this year on the Notre Dame campus, spreading more seeds of academic excellence, but if it ever looks as if the Department of Defense and all those other defense departments are ready to dig into their jeans for the sake of humanity, Father Hesburgh would be glad to leave home for awhile and hold out the plate during offertory. ■